

CLAIMS

1. An information reproducing apparatus for controlling, in accordance with a manipulation input, reproduction of content data read out from a content recording medium,

    said information reproducing apparatus, comprising:

        additional function information reading means for reading out, from the content recording medium, additional function information indicating an additional function correlated with the manipulation input; and

        additional function executing means for executing the additional function in response to the manipulation input.

2. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

        additional function program reading means for reading out, from the content recording medium, an additional function program which indicates the additional function and which is stored in the content recording medium together with the content data.

3. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

image information reading means for reading out, from the content recording medium, image information which indicates the additional function and which is stored in the content recording medium together with the content data;

wherein:

the additional function executing means displays the image information in response to the manipulation input.

4. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

text information reading means for reading out, from the content recording medium, text information which indicates the additional function and which is stored in the content recording medium together with the content data;

wherein:

the additional function executing means displays the text information in response to the manipulation input.

5. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

audio information reading means for reading out,

from the content recording medium, audio information which indicates the additional function and which is stored in the content recording medium together with the content data;

wherein:

the additional function executing means reproduces the audio information in response to the manipulation input.

6. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein:

the additional function information includes a flag indicating whether or not sound of the content data is muted while the audio information is reproduced.

7. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 6, wherein:

the additional function information is so set as to correspond to each scene of the content data.

8. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 6, further comprising:

main function control information reading means for reading out, from the content recording medium, main

function control information indicating whether or not execution of a main function is approved, which main function is a function intrinsically corresponding to the manipulation input; and

main function control means for controlling, in accordance with the main function control information, the execution of the main function, which execution is carried out in response to the manipulation input.

9. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein:

the main function control information is so set as to correspond to each scene of the content data.

10. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein:

a function for notifying information concerning disapproval of execution of the main function is assigned, as an additional function, to the manipulation input corresponding to the main function whose execution is disapproved by the main function control information.

11. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein:

a function for notifying information representing

that the manipulation input is prohibited is assigned, as an additional function, to the manipulation input corresponding to the main function whose execution is disapproved by the main function control information.

12. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein:

a function for notifying information representing an approved manipulation input is assigned, as an additional function, to the manipulation input corresponding to the main function whose execution is disapproved by the main function control information.

13. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 5, wherein:

the manipulation input corresponds to either (i) manipulation of suspending the reproduction of the content data or (ii) manipulation of halting the reproduction of the content data, and a function for notifying information different from the content data that is being reproduced is assigned, as an additional function, to the manipulation input.

14. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 5, wherein:

the manipulation input corresponds to manipulation of changing either (i) a reproduction direction of the content data or (ii) reproduction speed of the content data, and a function for notifying information different from the content data that is being reproduced is assigned, as an additional function, to the manipulation input.

15. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 5, wherein:

the manipulation input corresponds to manipulation of carrying out fast-forward of the content data, and a function for notifying information different from the content data that is being reproduced is assigned, as an additional function, to the manipulation input.

16. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 5, wherein:

the manipulation input corresponds to manipulation of carrying out fast-forwarding of the content data, and a function for (i) carrying out the fast-forwarding of the content data until a predetermined position and (ii) reproducing the content data at normal speed from the predetermined position is assigned, as an

additional function, to the manipulation input.

17. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 5, wherein:

a function different from the function intrinsically corresponding to the manipulation input is assigned, as an additional function, to the manipulation input.

18. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 17, wherein:

the manipulation input corresponds to reproduction manipulation carried out during the reproduction of the content data, and a function different from a reproduction function is assigned, as an additional function, to the manipulation input.

19. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein:

the additional function is a function for notifying the information such that the information is overlaid with the content data that is being reproduced.

20. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 11, wherein:

the additional function is a function for notifying

the information such that the information is overlaid with the content data that is being reproduced.

21. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 12, wherein:

the additional function is a function for notifying the information such that the information is overlaid with the content data that is being reproduced.

22. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein:

the additional function is a function for notifying the information such that the information is overlaid with the content data that is being reproduced.

23. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 14, wherein:

the additional function is a function for notifying the information such that the information is overlaid with the content data that is being reproduced.

24. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein:

the additional function is a function for notifying the information such that the information is overlaid with

the content data that is being reproduced.

25. The information reproducing apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 6, wherein:

the content recording medium stores data having a data structure in which the content data is sectioned based on a unit time and in which the additional function information is able to be recorded based on the unit time.

26. A method for controlling, in accordance with a manipulation input, reproduction of content data read out from a content recording medium,

said method comprising the steps of:

(a) reading out, from the content recording medium, additional function information indicating an additional function correlated with the manipulation input; and

(b) executing the additional function in response to the manipulation input.

27. A content recording medium storing the content data and the additional function information such that the content data and the additional function information is able to be supplied to the information reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 1.

28. A control program for operating the information reproducing apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 6, and for causing a computer to serve as each means of the information reproducing apparatus.

29. A computer-readable recording medium storing the control program as set forth in claim 28.